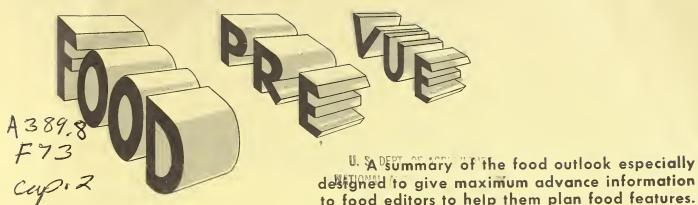
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up:2	designed to give maximum acto food editors to help them	dvance information
	of Agriculture rketing Service CURRENT SET (4 \$100 S	February 27, 1963 F P - 68
	Production of red meat in the first quarter of be about 4 percent above the first quarter of 1 is forecast in the April-June quarter. Large supplies of fed beef are in prospect for 1963. A record total of nearly 9 million head were on feed January 1, 1963. Fed cattle price a year earlier in mid-February. Prices are explow last year's levels throughout the rest of the second secon	the first half of of cattle and calves es were about \$2 below ected to continue be-
	First quarter slaughter of sheep and lamb may be under that of last year when slaughter ran high during January-March were 5 percent smaller that Prices received for lambs during January-March about \$2 above last year's prices. Pork production in the first half of 1963 is expercent larger than production in the same perimost of the increase over a year earlier occurr through June. In addition, cold storage holding 1 were 20 percent above a year earlier. Barrow Chicago in mid-February were about \$15.22 per 1 low a year ago.	ne about 10 percent n. Slaughter supplies an a year earlier. will probably average spected to be 3 to 4 dod last year, with ring from mid-March ags of pork on January and gilt prices at
	Production of chicken and turkey for 1963 is for production in 1962. Supplies of broilers going to market in the fir least 10 percent greater than in January-March price averaged a record low of 14.6¢ per pound. producing areas continued below a year ago throw In the second quarter, broiler supplies will be 1962 level, but during this period broilers will petition from larger supplies of pork and beef. are likely to be lower this period because of rerected by the Common Market.	est quarter will be at 1962. The January Prices in major ough mid-February. The reduced close to the lace stiffer com-In addition exports
Turkeys	On January 1, frozen turkey stocks were at 200 63 million pounds from the record of a year ear greater than the 1957-61 average. Turkey produ half of 1963 will be down a little from January	rlier, but 38 million action in the first

Eggs......Egg production on February 1 was down nearly 3 percent from a year ago. The April 1962 U.S. farm price was 31.5 cents per dozen.

April 1963 supplies are expected to be slightly below a year ago with prices about the same as last April's levels.

carry-over of a heavy supply of turkeys in 1962 continued during April 1962, resulting in a mid-April farm price of 20.9 cents per pound, lowest April price in 20 years. April 1963 prices are ex-

pected to average a little above a year ago.

DATRY......Milk production for the first quarter in 1963 may be slightly under output of a year ago. However, the forecast for the year is for an increase over last year's record production of 125.9 billion pounds.

## VEGETABLES:

Fresh......Supplies of most fresh vegetables in February-March are expected to be smaller than a year earlier. Substantially smaller supplies are in prospect for most tender items--such as snap beans, sweet corn, green peppers and tomatoes, which were hit hard by the December and January freezes in winter-producing areas. Supplies of hardier vegetables--cabbage, celery, carrots and lettuce--promise to be the same or larger than last year. Retail prices of most tender vegetables in February and March probably will average above those of a year earlier.

Potatoes and...Although supplies of potatoes are smaller this winter than last

Sweet Potatoes winter, they are still large relative to trade requirements. Into
mid-spring retail prices probably will average the same to slightly
above the January level, and above the depressed prices of last year.

Sweet potato supplies for the first half of 1963 will be materially
larger than a year ago. Prices probably will average moderately to

substantially below a year ago.

Frozen.....Frozen vegetable supplies were reduced by 103 million pounds during January to 1,180 million on February first. These supplies are 5 percent more than last year and 48 percent more than the 1957-61 average.

## FRUIT:

Citrus......Much lighter supplies of citrus fruit will be available in the first half of this year than during the same time last year. In Florida, early and mid-season oranges, tangerines, tangelos and Valencia oranges were most seriously damaged by winter freezes. However, since damage was lightest in Florida's southeastern producing area, near normal supplies of oranges and grapefruit from that area should be available. Prices will continue above year-earlier levels at least until mid-year.

<u>Deciduous.....</u>Supplies of <u>apples</u>, <u>pears</u>, <u>grapes</u> and <u>strawberries</u> are larger because of increased cold storage stocks. Although supplies of <u>fresh</u> <u>bananas</u> were short during January because of the shipping strike, they are expected to be normal soon. Prices for most of these fruits in the first half will not differ greatly from last year's prices.

Frozen......Orange concentrate holdings moved up to 49 million gallons by February 1, a gain of 9 million from the previous month. Frozen fruits in storage on February 1 were down 56 million from a month earlier to 472 million pounds.

## The Plentiful Foods Program

The following foods will be in plentiful supply in April: Pork, Carrots, Potatoes, Canned Freestone Peaches, Peanuts and Peanut Products, Beef, Fluid Milk, Eggs and Canned Ripe Olives.